



ENVIRONMENTAL AND PUBLIC PROTECTION CABINET

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NEWS RELEASE

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WANTED: VOLUNTEERS FOR INSECT HUNT IN BLANTON FOREST *Search begins for hemlock killer in Letcher County*

FRANKFORT, Ky. (Feb.22, 2007) – The hunt is on for the destructive hemlock woolly adelgid, an invasive insect that has been devastating hemlock forests in the eastern United States. The nuisance was recently found in Kentucky.

The Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission is asking for volunteers this Saturday, Feb. 24, to help survey Blanton Forest State Nature Preserve for the insect.

All those interested should meet at the Blanton Forest parking lot Saturday at 10 a.m. EST and be dressed for steep terrain and weather. Training will be provided. Sign up and get directions by contacting field representative Alice Mandt at alice.mandt@ky.gov or (502) 573-2886.

KSNPC's mission is to protect Kentucky's natural heritage by: (1) identifying, acquiring and managing natural areas that represent the best-known occurrences of rare, native species, natural communities and significant natural features in a statewide nature preserve system; (2) working with others to protect biological diversity; and (3) educating Kentuckians as to the value and purpose of nature preserves and biodiversity conservation. The commission inventories Kentucky for significant natural areas and protects the best examples in a state nature preserve system.

More information about the commission can be obtained by mail (KSNPC, 801 Schenkel Lane, Frankfort, Ky. 40601-1403), by telephone (502-573-2886) or via Internet (www.naturepreserves.ky.gov).

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